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The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
WINTHROP, IOWA



LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*)  
Male (upper figure) and female  
From a painting by Earnest W. Steffen



## THE LAZULI BUNTING ALONG THE WESTERN BORDER OF IOWA: A SUMMARY

By WILLIAM G. YOUNG WORTH

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SIOUX CITY, IOWA

A male Lazuli Bunting is a lovely thing to watch in the bright sun on the western prairies or mountains, but it seems even more beautiful when found on the farm lands of Iowa. It was a wonderful experience when I made my first Iowa observation on May 20, 1929. Since that day I have searched unceasingly to extend my observations of this bird on the western border of Iowa. The following account is a summary of my efforts.

The next observation of the Lazuli Bunting in Iowa was made by Mrs. Harold R. Peasley, Des Moines, Iowa, on July 25, 1935. This most interesting record was made near Indianola, Warren County, and was well verified two days later, July 27, by Mrs. Peasley and a group of observers consisting of Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Miss Olivia McCabe, and Mrs. John E. Stewart.

There was a long interval between the Warren County record and the next record along the western border of Iowa. This took place on May 16, 1948, when on the joint field trip of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and Iowa Ornithologists' Union at Sioux City, Mrs. Peasley again observed a male Lazuli Bunting—just across the Iowa border in South Dakota. This time her group consisted of Mrs. Janet DuMont, Dr. Chas. Stewart, Paul Leaverton, Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain and Dr. Telford Work.

To give the summary more completeness, the reader will please bear with me while I offer several other occurrences of the Lazuli Bunting near the western border of Iowa. These show that this species does nest near the Iowa border and is probably moving into Iowa.

The first observation is by Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, on June 26, 1929. The place was in Minnesota near the Red River of the North and has been beautifully documented by Dr. Breckenridge in *Occasional Papers*: Number 3, University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History. The colored painting of a hybrid Indigo X Lazuli Bunting adds much to the paper. However, the most interesting point is that this western bunting was mated with a female Indigo Bunting, a fact which will be stressed later in this report.

While on a collecting trip to Yankton County, South Dakota, on July 4, 1933, I observed a normal pair of Lazuli Buntings going about their nesting duties. This record is given to point out the fact that Lazuli Buntings normally nest as near as 50 air miles from the Iowa border. I think this occurrence has been ignored or overlooked by many birders in this area.

The next Lazuli Bunting record in this general area was made during the first week of June, 1935. While the writer was camped near Spring Lake, Day County, South Dakota, on several successive mornings a male Lazuli Bunting was seen with two female buntings. One female was an Indigo Bunting and the other a Lazuli Bunting. On every occasion when the male Lazuli Bunting was flushed the two females would also flush. I was sorry I could not stay longer to determine whether both females started nest-building.

The late Dr. T. C. Stephens and I years ago agreed that locally a bird seen on either bank of the Big Sioux River, the boundary line between Iowa and South Dakota, would in the course of a day's activity fly back and forth across the river many times. If a bird were seen in the morning on the South Dakota bank, it could probably be expected on the Iowa bank by afternoon. With this agreement in mind I do not hesitate to give the following records.

On May 15, 1950, while on a field trip along the Big Sioux River, I found a male Lazuli Bunting on the South Dakota side of the river. This

bird was singing almost constantly and was watched for a long time. On May 17, 1956, I accompanied William R. Felton, Jr., to his farm near the Missouri River. This is a few miles from Sioux City, but in South Dakota. On his farm we saw a male Lazuli Bunting in good plumage. It was feeding on canker worms.

On May 22, 1957, I returned to one of my favorite birding areas, the Big Sioux River near the Hunter Bridge. Among the many singing Indigo Buntings I was not surprised to find two fully plumaged Lazuli Buntings, also singing in fine form. I was again on the South Dakota side of the stream, but I knew that some day I would happen to be on the other side and would also find my Lazuli Buntings.

Twenty-nine years after I first reported the Lazuli Bunting in Iowa, I was again rewarded for my patient efforts by seeing a fully plumaged male Lazuli Bunting on the Iowa side of the Big Sioux River—May 14, 1958. The actual site was near the river just south of the DeHaan Mink Ranch. The bird was feeding with several singing Indigo Buntings in a large elm tree. The singing was my initial clue. This Lazuli Bunting was too busy feeding to sing. It was silent for most of the hour that I watched it. Repeated visits to the general area until mid-June failed to reveal the Lazuli Bunting as a summer resident and I feared that I would have to wait another year for a nesting. But I was wrong, as will be related below.

Many years ago I found a Clay-colored Sparrow in late May in a certain area of Plymouth County. Almost yearly I have visited that spot to determine if this sparrow does summer in northwest Iowa, but I have always met with failure. On June 18, 1958, I made my regular trip to this hillside pasture and after a long tramp I returned to the road. I heard a bunting sing and immediately I put my glass on it. Much to my surprise I saw that it was a Lazuli Bunting in somewhat different plumage and not an Indigo. By getting into the car and moving nearer to the bird, I was able to watch it at close range. My second look brought to mind the Breckenridge painting of a hybrid Lazuli X Indigo Bunting. I was quite satisfied that this was what I had singing before me, another hybrid. Excited chips about 15 feet from the road in a snowberry patch claimed my attention, and with

## Dedication

*The beautiful frontispiece accompanying this article represents two "firsts." It is the first colored plate to be published in our magazine, and the first colored painting that the artist, Earnest W. Steffen of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has ever had published. Although he has made hundreds of bird paintings in color, this picture was painted expressly for Iowa Bird Life, to illustrate Mr. Youngworth's article on the Lazuli Bunting.*

*Mr. Youngworth, who has written more articles for our magazine than any other member and over a long period of years, underwrote the cost of the colored plate as a special contribution to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.*

*We are proud to dedicate this issue of Iowa Bird Life to these two generous members—Earnest W. Steffen and William Youngworth.*

them came calls from my singer. The two birds were undoubtedly mated, but the odd thing again was that this female bunting with nesting material in her beak was a normal female Indigo Bunting. Here was the Breckenridge Lazuli-Indigo Bunting nesting story all over again. The rest of the morning was spent in listening to my hybrid sing his sprightly song and watching his Indigo Bunting mate carrying nesting material to her partly finished nest.

The quest for the Lazuli Bunting in Iowa can be carried on by anyone willing to listen to every Indigo Bunting song and then trace it down during the course of the spring and summer season. One must listen to hundreds, even thousands, of such songs, as I have. Eventually the reward will be the recording of a Lazuli Bunting. I think this species has been overlooked in Iowa. I believe that intensive field work will reveal it is possibly a regular summer resident in western Iowa.

The question of how to identify a hybrid Lazuli X Indigo Bunting may cause some observers to wonder a bit, but a good, close look will reveal the almost complete lack of usual tawny color, which appears on the breast of a normal Lazuli Bunting male, and the rather indefinite white wing-bars. The shadings of the various blues are noticeable in the hand. However, for a really fine description of this hybrid one must refer to Dr. Breckenridge's paper. I took a hybrid Lazuli X Indigo Bunting on June 1, 1932, in Cherry County, Nebraska, and feel quite sure the sight record in Plymouth County was the same sort of hybrid.

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## MIGRATION AND THE AUTUMN WEATHER PATTERNS OF 1958

By MRS. CARL PROESCHOLDT  
LISCOMB, IOWA

During the autumn of 1958, I attempted to get a picture of fall migration in a very limited area by trying to see the correlation between heavy movements of birds and the weather.

From September 3 to October 26, except for seven days, I checked each morning for an hour or two an area in northern Marshall County running parallel to the Iowa River for approximately one-half mile, and one-fourth mile from the river. This is a field road running between fields and weed patches, edged with several trees, to a diminutive pond bordered with small willows and four huge brush piles, and approaching more closely the heavier woodland along the river. It is at least a half-mile from any buildings.

By examining the daily weather maps, I was often able to predict major flights. Whenever there were east-west opposing low-and-high pressure areas and a favorable weather pattern of a rising barometer, falling temperature, drop in humidity and northerly winds, I could be almost certain there would be a good flight.

This particular situation, as described by Hochbaum (1955:104) involves a high-pressure area, with a clockwise movement of air around it, in the western half of the continent and a low-pressure area, with a counterclockwise air movement, in the east. This creates winds flowing south down the middle between the two air masses and is favorable to autumn migrants moving en masse. There were five such weather maps noted in the autumn of 1958: August 23, September 3, October 24, November 5, and November 26.

Early September, as an example, followed the pattern, with a September 3 weather map showing east-west opposing "lows" and "highs," a cool front crossing Iowa September 4, and a 3-inch rain on September 5. On September 6, at 5:30 a.m., the temperature was 62°, with lower humidity and a slight north wind. That morning and the following days of September 7 and 8 were warbler-rich mornings with Ovenbirds, Wilson's Warblers, Nashville Warblers, Northern Waterthrush and Blue-winged Warblers as well as an immature Parula, a female Golden-winged, a Canada, and a Blackburnian.

In addition to the flights resulting from the weather phenomena connected with the opposing pressure systems, already mentioned, good flights almost invariably followed a combination of cold fronts, northerly winds, and a drop in humidity. Hochbaum (1955:104), also mentions a rising barometer as being a controlling factor.

The next big days of October 5 and 6 followed a cool front on October 4, but without the opposing pressure areas, and brought a good sparrow flight—the first White-crowned and Fox Sparrows, a LeConte's and additions of White-throated and Harris' Sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos. I also saw five Purple Finches and the last of the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

October 16 to 18, following another cold front, had Robins and Common Grackles flying, and the weed patches full of sparrows. On October 16, 10 White-crowned, 100 White-throated, 20 Harris', and 80 Savannah Sparrows were seen. That same morning five groups of Common Grackles totaling 120 passed, and 130 Robins in three groups. On October 18, twelve flocks of Common Grackles totaling 415 passed in one hour's time, flying south above, or closely parallel to, the Iowa River, as migrating flocks almost invariably do at this point.

The October 24 weather map showed a low-pressure area over Michigan with a high-pressure area in Canada north of Montana. October 25 and 26 brought Common Grackles flying, additional Slate-colored Juncos, the last

White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and geese honking over the house at night.

November 5 had strong northerly winds and the weather map showed another similar air-pressure pattern, with the coldest night of autumn to date on November 6. On November 7 the afternoon sky was overcast, the temperature was 52°, with a strong wind from the south at Union Grove Wildlife Refuge in Tama County. There, in about an hour's time, I saw 245 blackbirds in eight groups moving, flying directly into the wind.

Redwinged Blackbirds and other blackbirds (probably Rusty Blackbirds, as there were 10 autumn immatures resting in the brush beside the lake) were facing into the strong wind, some groups flying only 2 to 4 feet above the water. None were flying higher than 10 to 15 feet above the surface of the lake. After light rain started, no more were seen flying. Apparently the stimulation responsible for initiating their flight was strong enough to cause them to continue even into an adverse wind.

Other observations I found interesting included one Bay-breasted Warbler on September 10 and seven on September 16; a late flock of 300-400 swallows, mostly Barn and Tree with a few Cliff Swallows, at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County; and two Fox Sparrows as late as November 21 in Tama County. Blue Jays were observed migrating several times: on September 22, 79 in three groups; on September 26, 75 in two groups; and single flocks on October 2 and 3. These, too, were moving following cool fronts.

By studying the weather and by daily observations of birds for a certain period, I definitely noted a direct correlation between the two, as well as having considerable spice added to my birding.

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## BIRDS OF UNION SLOUGH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

(Extracted from a leaflet prepared by U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, containing 2,077 acres, extends for 8 miles along Union Slough and Buffalo Creek in north-central Iowa. Although one of the smaller waterfowl refuges administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, it is an important resting area for the vast numbers of Mallards and other waterfowl that glean waste corn from the adjoining rich farmlands during the annual migrations. Established in 1938, the refuge is a unit in the chain of refuges in the Mississippi Flyway, which extends from Canada and Alaska southward to the Gulf of Mexico.

Union Slough is all that remains of a pre-glacial riverbed and joins the sources of the Blue Earth River (Minnesota) and the East Fork of the Des Moines River. It is so nearly level that previous to dike and dam construction the direction of flow was determined by the direction of the wind. Efforts were made to drain the slough north through the Blue Earth watershed about 1914, but siltation and lack of grade subsequently caused the drainage efforts to fail and allowed the area to revert to a marsh. Dikes and dams constructed by the Government since 1938 have completed the rehabilitation of this refuge.

Union Slough Refuge is on the eastern edge of the Northern Plains Region. Its uplands are naturally covered with such native range plants as bluestem, grama grass and lead plant, while green ash, cottonwood and elm are the dominant trees of the stream banks.

The rapid draining of the surrounding marsh and the recent consolidation of farms, with the destruction of farm groves and wooded areas to make even more land available for corn, have resulted in this area becoming a feeding and resting place for the millions of birds which cross this part of Iowa during their annual migration—an oasis in a desert of corn. The spring and fall migrations and the later summer shore-bird concentrations are of most interest to bird watchers.

The refuge is located in northern Kossuth County, 17 miles northeast of Algona, 6 miles northeast of Burt, 6 miles east of Bancroft, 6 miles west of Titonka, and only 13 miles south of the Minnesota-Iowa State line. The refuge office is located at Titonka. Visitors may observe birds throughout the year from the five public roads that cross or adjoin the refuge. A 30-acre public recreation area also presents birding opportunities except during the waterfowl hunting season when the refuge is completely closed. Harold H. Burgess is Refuge Manager (his address is Titonka, Iowa).

The following bird list contains 183 species which represent observations made by the refuge manager and other ornithologists between 1938 and 1959. Birds observed nesting on the refuge or in the vicinity are marked by an asterisk. This list, using species names, is in accordance with the Fifth (1957) A.O.U. Check-List. Where new names are sufficiently different, the former name is added in parentheses.

Common Loon	*Hooded Merganser
Horned Grebe	Common Merganser
Eared Grebe	Red-breasted Merganser
Western Grebe	Turkey Vulture
*Pied-billed Grebe	Sharp-shinned Hawk
White Pelican	*Cooper's Hawk
Double-crested Cormorant	*Red-tailed Hawk
Great Blue Heron	Red-shouldered Hawk
*Green Heron	Broad-winged Hawk
Common Egret	Swainson's Hawk
Black-crowned Night Heron	Rough-legged Hawk
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Golden Eagle
Least Bittern	Bald Eagle
*American Bittern	*Marsh Hawk
Whistling Swan	Osprey
Canada Goose	Prairie Falcon
White-fronted Goose	Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk)
Snow Goose	Pigeon Hawk
Blue Goose	Sparrow Hawk
*Mallard	Bobwhite
Black Duck	*Ring-necked Pheasant
Gadwall	*Gray Partridge (Hungarian)
*Pintail	*Virginia Rail
Green-winged Teal	*Sora
*Blue-winged Teal	Common Gallinule
American Widgeon (Baldpate)	*American Coot
Shoveler	Semipalmated Plover
*Wood Duck	*Killdeer
Redhead	American Golden Plover
Ring-necked Duck	Black-bellied Plover
Canvasback	American Woodcock
Lesser Scaup	Common Snipe (Wilson's)
Common Goldeneye	Long-billed Curlew
Bufflehead	Upland Plover
*Ruddy Duck	*Spotted Sandpiper



Solitary Sandpiper	*House Wren
Willet	*Long-billed Marsh Wren
Greater Yellowlegs	*Catbird
Lesser Yellowlegs	*Brown Thrasher
Pectoral Sandpiper	*Robin
Baird's Sandpiper	Hermit Thrush
Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper)	Swainson's Thrush (Olive-backed)
Long-billed Dowitcher	*Eastern Bluebird
Stilt Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Marbled Godwit	Cedar Waxwing
Avocet	Northern Shrike
Wilson's Phalarope	*Loggerhead Shrike
Herring Gull	*Starling
Ring-billed Gull	Red-eyed Vireo
Franklin's Gull	Warbling Vireo
Bonaparte's Gull	Orange-crowned Warbler
Forster's Tern	*Yellow Warbler
Common Tern	Myrtle Warbler
Least Tern	Palm Warbler
Caspian Tern	Mourning Warbler
*Black Tern	*Yellowthroat
*Mourning Dove	Wilson's Warbler
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	American Redstart
Black-billed Cuckoo	*House Sparrow
*Screech Owl	*Bobolink
*Great Horned Owl	*Western Meadowlark
Snowy Owl	*Yellow-headed Blackbird
*Barred Owl	*Redwinged Blackbird
Short-eared Owl	*Orchard Oriole
Common Nighthawk	*Baltimore Oriole
Chimney Swift	Rusty Blackbird
Belted Kingfisher	Brewer's Blackbird
*Yellow-shafted Flicker	*Common Grackle
Red-bellied Woodpecker	*Brown-headed Cowbird
*Red-headed Woodpecker	*Cardinal
Hairy Woodpecker	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
*Downy Woodpecker	Indigo Bunting
*Eastern Kingbird	*Dickcissel
Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Redpoll
*Eastern Phoebe	*American Goldfinch
Trail's Flycatcher (Alder)	Rufous-sided Towhee
Eastern Wood Pewee	*Savannah Sparrow
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*Grasshopper Sparrow
*Horned Lark	*Vesper Sparrow
*Tree Swallow	Slate-covered Junco
*Bank Swallow	Tree Sparrow
Rough-winged Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
*Barn Swallow	Harris' Sparrow
Cliff Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Purple Martin	White-throated Sparrow
*Blue Jay	Fox Sparrow
Common Raven	*Swamp Sparrow
*Common Crow	*Song Sparrow
*Black-capped Chickadee	Lapland Longspur
White-breasted Nuthatch	Snow Bunting
Brown Creeper	

## FROM A BIRD OBSERVER'S NOTEBOOK

By WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH

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Mrs. Dwight F. Davis, whose husband is a nationally known grower of gladioli, called me in early May, 1957, to report that Cedar Waxwings were eating petals from their fruit trees. I thought it would be a good chance to watch my own two fruit trees and observe this interesting habit. On May 5, I looked out at our apple tree and saw it being worked over by a small flock of waxwings. For several hours each day until May 19 I watched these birds, usually ten of them, and discovered some things not in the bird books. The books say the petals are eaten, that is true. But they neglect to say that quite often a waxwing will snap the entire heart from a blossom. Examination will show that most of the blossoms harbor tiny insects. I think the birds devour insects and blossoms alike. Of course, we know that many birds including waxwings literally stuff themselves with food. My waxwings were no exception. I often saw them so stuffed with apple blossoms and their crops so extended, all they could do was to sit in stupor while their food was digested. I also noticed they usually picked the succulent petals and left the old. By May 12 they had nearly deserted our tree for a later blooming species of apple in the next yard. There they fed for the next week, almost ignoring our tree.

Among unusual bird nests people have reported nests of wire, steel shavings and cigarette stubs. A pair of Cardinals, which persisted in nesting on our front porch or near our rear door, built interesting nests. The female of this pair picked up numerous bits of unusual materials. Of two of her nests before me, one is made up of twigs with several layers of paper and a generous sprinkling of torn strips of cloth which I was using to tie up plants. The second nest from the front porch was much handier to the grocery across the street. This nest was made up of half twigs and half paper. Little and big human litterbugs dropped wrappers of candy bars, bubble gum, miniature pies, and the like along the street when they came out of the store. The Cardinal picked up pieces for the nest.

I have never indulged in much nest-watching, for from bitter personal experience I have seen too many nests destroyed by predators after we had set up blinds. Seldom do I tamper with a wild bird's nest. In the case of a female Cardinal and her nest on our front porch in 1957, I became interested when I saw a female Cowbird at the nest before it was half finished, and I decided to watch proceedings. The Cowbird got the first egg in the nest and I painted it with nail polish. The Cardinal eventually got her four eggs laid, but the Cowbird kept coming back. Each time she laid an egg she would peck the Cardinal's eggs. Examination revealed that all but one Cardinal egg was damaged. To keep the Cardinal happy, I removed a Cowbird egg every time one was laid and marked it with nail polish. I chilled it for a day before putting it back in the nest. In this way I took away the damaged Cardinal egg and replaced it with a chilled Cowbird egg. Actual incubation began May 1. By May 13 I began to wonder, so I looked into the nest and found only one Cowbird egg and one Cardinal egg. Another week went by with the Cardinal still incubating. I took another look and found that only the Cardinal egg remained. Time passed and finally at noon on May 25 the Cardinal left the nest with chipping notes and never returned. Examination revealed the lone remaining egg was addled. To my mind, she certainly had established an endurance record by sticking to her nest for 25 days.

A few years ago E. W. Steffen, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, reported on the scarcity of birds in cities. My own observations over a period of 30 years

in Sioux City are quite similar. Our neighborhood now has ten times the growth of trees, flowers and shrubs that it had when all these houses were new or nearly so. Then we had Yellow Warblers and Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos nesting in the area. Today they are gone as summer birds. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks formerly graced our bird bath, but they rarely come any more. In 1957 the crowning blow was struck. We had always had one pair of Orchard Orioles nesting on nearby grounds, but they were not there that year. In former days this was fine Orchard Oriole country. I believe that our top Iowa bird-watcher, Philip A. DuMont, gives a clue for their disappearance. In "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa" (1934), he says: "It is the opinion of the writer that the grackle has been instrumental in driving it out".

Thirty years ago my neighborhood had several fine martin houses. Today there is not one left. The major blame for the lack of Purple Martins can be laid to the Starling. W. Bert Smith of Sioux City recently took down his martin house because the Starlings had reduced the colony to one pair and then had bodily evicted this last pair. He spent the winter of 1957 in Texas and on the way home stopped for a few days to watch spring burst over the Ozarks. Interested in birds, he walked in the woods but became discouraged because he couldn't find any birds. He said: "In every woodpecker hole I saw nothing but the evil visage of a Starling". This explains the plight of many of our native song birds.

As the tide of the long winter ebbs and flows toward spring, the natural food supply of wild birds often becomes spread a bit thin. It is then that I ponder on the fact that people are planting newer types of shade trees which often furnish little or no bird food.

Sixty years ago when my father, Will Youngworth, built our new home in Tyndall, Bon Homme County, South Dakota, he did not forget trees. Besides the large orchard, he planted many seed-bearing shade trees such as the ash, red cedar, hackberry and, last but not least, the beautiful catalpa. At that time and for about 20 years thereafter the catalpa was a well-known tree in that area, and many farmers planted long rows of them. Drought and bitter freezes in November cut the ranks of the catalpa tree and they were replaced by other kinds of trees; now only remnants are there. A check of nursery catalogs reveals that almost no one advertises the catalpa for sale any more.

Probably few students of bird life have had time or opportunities to watch the catalpa tree through the seasons as it supplies food for birds. In spring the first hungry Rose-breasted Grosbeaks do much of their feeding from the long seed pods. In winter Cardinals often pull seeds from the long, cylindrical pods. Often the wind blows the seeds under shrubbery or along edges of a flower bed and there the Goldfinches, Purple Finches, and Cardinals enjoy eating the flat, thin seeds. Also competing is the ever-hungry House Sparrow, which also eats catalpa seeds when other food is not available. All these seed-eating birds carefully nip the seed from the tufted wings fastened to the seed. Another of our summer birds, the Baltimore Oriole, seems to find much food in the split ends of the seed pods that hang on the trees. Observation with binoculars reveals that they pull small green caterpillars from these pods and eat them with relish.

Many new hazards confront wild birds today. One of the more lethal is the new picture window in homes. Victims from Purple Finches to pheasants are being reported by Sioux Cityans. The country-wide toll of birds killed in this manner must be large.

On November 10, 1957, I viewed another crippler of bird life—this one probably only an occasional risk to birds, yet it actually happened. I had been burning debris in the back yard. Since the fire had burned down to



a cone of gray ashes, I went to the house and was idly watching some Harris's Sparrows. One of these sparrows in juvenile plumage flew over to the ash cone and tried to perch, but sank down in the red-hot ashes. It took only an instant to badly burn the foot which had gone in farthest. The sparrow took off in evident pain. It tried to perch in a lilac bush but had trouble hanging on with one foot. Its next move was to fly to the bird bath where it waded into the water and took a bath. This was with great effort, as it could stand on only one leg. It pulled the burned foot up against its body and tried to finish preening, but finally gave up and flew away. I realized I had witnessed something unusual. I never saw the bird again.

The process of hoarding by Blue Jays is a constant source of interest to the bird-watcher, and while little can be found in published literature on the subject, it apparently is a common practice with this bird. The jay alights on the ground near a pile of leaves and deposits its particle of food, then it proceeds to pick up leaves. Depending on its mood, the number of leaves placed over the food might be five or 15. I have often gone to the cache and have usually found a piece of suet, although sometimes the buried food is a piece of bread or a chunk of fried potato.

One of my most interesting experiences with watching a bird take a bath was on August 30, 1957. I was watering the lawn with a spray-type sprinkler, which was set close to some shrubbery with the spray hitting the top of one bush and dripping rapidly down through the foliage. I noticed a Red-eyed Vireo looking over the situation. The Vireo then did a very odd thing. It perched on a twig and with its bill pointed straight up like a bittern, sat under the spray for a long time with its eyes closed and enjoying the good soaking, or so I thought. Apparently the soaking was not complete enough, for it suddenly turned end for end and hung, head down, by one foot from the twig. In this position it now spread its wings and tail and proceeded to soak itself thoroughly for several more minutes. It became so soaked it had trouble flying to a twig beyond the spray. After flying to the new perch it proceeded to preen itself.

On July 30, 1957, I witnessed rather unusual behavior in a Robin. A Robin came flying across the Big Sioux River with a large green caterpillar in its bill and flew to a large, half-dead tree. On reaching the tree it began an ascent to the top by a series of several short flights, upward from limb to limb as a Robin often does. On reaching the very top, which must have been 80 feet, it was greeted by a noisy young Robin. The caterpillar was large, the stuffing process went awry, and the food dropped to the ground. Without hesitation the adult Robin lunged straight down after the food and almost caught it. As the food hit the ground the Robin stopped abruptly as only a bird can. It touched lightly on the ground and picked up the caterpillar. The long flight by the series steps was repeated. Finally the Robin reached the young one and this time fed it without further trouble. The "stair-step" flight of this Robin was very interesting to me.

A few minutes later in the same tree another episode in the life of a bird was revealed. This time it was humorous to me, but it seemed very annoying to an adult Crested Flycatcher. A half dozen or more young Purple Martins were sitting around in the top of this tall tree and as usual were calling loudly. Suddenly the clamor increased and I saw a Crested Flycatcher come flying across the river with a large grasshopper in its mouth. The flycatcher flew to the top of the tree where it was met by the flapping, screaming group of hungry martins. They clustered themselves about the nonplussed flycatcher, all begging for food. This was too much for the Crested Flycatcher and it took off in a hurry for its own young.



BARRED OWL, PHOTOGRAPHED BY F. W. KENT, DECEMBER 29, 1958

Describing this owl, we quote from the Iowa City newspaper:

"A large owl flew into a third-floor classroom of the University of Iowa Electrical Engineering building sometime Sunday and didn't use a door to enter.

"When Prof. John M. Russ entered the classroom Monday morning, he found the floor and tables littered with glass and a top pane in one window completely without glass.

"The professor thought at first that someone had thrown a rock through the window and was startled when he suddenly noticed a pair of bright eyes staring at him from under a drawing stool."

Later, after the bird had been photographed, it was lifted through a window, stool and all, and pushed off with a stick. It flew to a tree north of the building and soon left for parts unknown.

## THE 1958 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN IOWA

Compiled by WOODWARD H. BROWN

The 1958 Christmas Census was taken under favorable weather conditions, and 24 stations reported with 175 observers afield. This includes some duplication as several observers took part in more than one census. While the number of observers represents a substantial decrease from the 1956 and 1957 totals of 210, the 92 species found is the greatest number for any year except 1957 when 98 species were listed. Davenport, with 60 observers and 70 species, again heads the list in both respects.

The surprise this year was the Townsend's Solitaire. This species was placed on the hypothetical list by Anderson and accorded the same status by DuMont. The only Iowa record which comes to mind is that of Wm. Youngworth who found one at Ticonic December 26, 1956. The census just taken includes another located by Youngworth December 22, 1958, one reported by Myrle Jones from Swan Lake in the Estherville-Spencer region, and one in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines. A fourth was found in Rose Hill Cemetery in Shenandoah a week before their census.

Lincoln's Sparrow also appears on the list for the first time, being reported from Davenport and Des Moines. The Savannah Sparrow was reported only once before, in 1955, and the Brown-headed Cowbird in but two earlier years.

An inspection of the tabulation reveals a pronounced shortage of winter visitors other than Bohemian Waxwings, which made a good showing. Among the fringillids, Purple Finches were reported from only six stations, Pine Siskins from but five, crossbills from only one, and redpolls were seen not at all.

Oregon Juncos were reported from Clinton and Davenport. Considering the lack of unanimity among the experts even when specimens are available, the field identification of the species of the genus *Junco* is difficult, to say the least. It seems best to include these with the Slate-colored Juncos.

1. CEDAR FALLS (Snag Creek, Black Hawk Park, Beaver Creek, Union Bridge, Wyth Park, Hartman Reserve, and other Cedar River areas; river-bottom forest 60%, upland forest 5%, savanna 10%, fields and prairies 25%). Dec. 20; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 10° to 22°; wind, 0 to 5 m.p.h. from S. Clear, 2 in. snow on ground, ponds frozen, rivers 10% open. Observers (9) in 2 parties: Martin L. Grant, Eleanor Eifert, Russell Hays, Beulah Rugg, Mrs. Charles Schwanke, Maxine Schwanke, Florence Spring, George Swanson, Ben Thoma.

Towhee, *P. e. arcticus*, observed at 6 in. at a window feeder, in a yard it had been visiting for over three weeks.

2. CEDAR RAPIDS (7½-mile radius centering on the Federal Building, Cedar Lake, north along Cedar River, Bever Park, Marion Springs, Riverside Park, Ellis Park, roadsides to Palo, Beverly). Dec. 28; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Temp. 31° to 49°; wind, 4 to 15 m.p.h. from S. Overcast, foggy in early morning, clearing in late a. m., partly cloudy in p. m. River and creeks frozen, 2 in. snow in sheltered spots. Observers (6) in 2 parties: Seddie Cogswell, Jr., Mrs. Lucille Elson, Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Lillian Serbousek, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane.

3. CLINTON (same territory as last year), Dec. 20; 7:30 a. m. to 5:15 p. m. Temp. 17° to 22°; wind, 4 to 15 m.p.h. from W. Overcast and snow flurries, clearing in p. m., ground covered with 4 to 20 in. old snow, river 98% frozen. Observers (6) in 3 parties: Jolene Anderson, Lewis Blevins, Elton Fawkes, Fred Leshner, James Lewis, Peter C. Petersen, Jr.

Loggerhead Shrike seen in good light with dark bill, mask meeting above bill and absence of any barring on breast noted by Elton Fawkes and James



Lewis. White-Winged Crossbill seen in good light. Crossed bill, white wing bars and roddish general body coloration noted by Lewis Blevins.

4. DAVENPORT (Territory covered, same as last year). Dec. 28; 5:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. Temp. 31° to 54°; wind 5 to 10 m.p.h. from W. Clear, cloudy in p. m., ground bare except for old drifts, river 50% frozen. Observers (60) in 28 parties: Carl Anderson, Carl Bengston, Mrs. Bertie, Lewis Elevins, Mrs. Emmy Busch, Harry Carl, Dorothy Cowley, Mrs. A. S. Crom, Larry and Robert Dau, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, Dale Dickinson, Gretchen Dietz, Leo Doering, Dave Eldridge, Elton Fawks, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gold, Henry Goldschmidt, Jeanette Graham, Dick and Ted Greer, Jim Hanssen, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hazard, Don Herold, Mr. and Mrs. James Hodges, Mrs. Janake, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Dave Krause, James Lewis, Fred Lorenzen, Jerry McConoughy, Mrs. McDermott, Mr. and Mrs. F. Marquis, Mrs. Alice Mattson, Edwin Meyer, Tom Morrissey, Peter Petersen, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Peter Petersen, Mr. and Mrs. Don Price, Mrs. John Romans, Mrs. Paul Ryan, Edward Schneider, Fred Schwartz, Joseph Carl Scolaro, Larry Scott, Dennis Sheets, Mrs. L. L. Stollenberg, Donald Ron Swensson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trial, Carl Utz.

Harlan's Hawk—identified by Lewis Blevins, Mr. and Mrs. Don Price and Edwin Meyer; seen at about 200 yards with 30x scope in good light and identified by dark coloration, tail pattern and white-tipped feathers on back. Mockingbird—seen by Mrs. A. S. Crom at feeder which it has visited since September. Loggerhead Shrike—seen by Dennis Sheets and Jeanette Graham in good light; identified by black bill, black mask meeting over bill and lack of barring on breast. Savannah Sparrows—two were seen by Elton Fawks and one was collected by James Hodges for the Davenport Public Museum. Field Sparrow—observed by Lewis Blevins in excellent light. Lincoln's Sparrows—seen together by Margie Trail; observed at close range with binoculars and identified by finely streaked and buffy breast. Every effort was made to avoid any duplicating in the counting of Bald Eagles. All observers checked at the same time.

5. DES MOINES (Same area as last year). Dec. 27; 8 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Temp. 27° to 55°; wind 10 m.p.h. from SW. Clear, no snow cover. Observers (20) in 4 parties: Dorothy Anderson, Albert C. Berkowitz, Georgia Billmeyer, Mrs. Ruth Einsfeld, Mrs. Gladys Black, Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Carl Brown, Woodward H. Brown, Ruth Chapman, Hannah Deutch, Oliver Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Haskell, Joe Kennedy, Mrs. E. D. Meyers, Mary Elizabeth Peck, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley, Mary Ellen Warters, Lynn Willcockson.

Townsend's Solitaire—seen by J. K. and W. H. B. had been present in Glendale Cemetery since Dec. 13th. Brown-headed Cowbird—seen by Mrs. H. P., M. E. W. and L. W. feeding with a flock of Redwinged Blackbirds. Lincoln's Sparrow, in a flock of Tree Sparrows, identified by Mrs. L. H. and M. B.

6. DUBUQUE. (Linwood and Mt. Calvary cemeteries, Eagle Point Park, City Island, Dubuque's Grave Area, Little Maquoketa River, Mississippi River sloughs and Sinope Creek area in Wisconsin; open fields 10%, coniferous woodlands 15%, deciduous woodlands 40%, river sloughs 35%.) Dec. 28; 7:30 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Temp. 29° to 42°; wind 0 to 8 m.p.h. from S. Clearing to clear to partly overcast, river frozen except few patches 3 miles below dam. Observers (17) in 3 parties: C. O. Johnson, Robert Johnson, Ivan Schuster, Phyllis Shultz, Floyd Wharton, Robert Spahn, Steve Croker, Leamore and Janaan Wunderlich, Virginia Ellwanger, Sharon Harrington, Douglas Gukiesen, Norval Shappell, Wm. La Mour, Tim Shireman, Frieda and George Crossley.

(Continued on page 18)

	1. Cedar Falls	2. Cedar Rapids	3. Clinton	4. Davenport	5. Des Moines	6. Dubuque	7. Estherville-Spencer	9. Fairfield	9. Iowa City	10. Lamoni	11. Lansing	12. Lehigh	13. Mt. Vernon	14. Orden	15. Ottumwa	16. Pine Hollow State Park	17. Shenandoah	18. Sioux City	19. Sioux City (Youngworth)	20. Union Slough	21. Waterloo (Audubon Soc.)	22. Waterloo (Hays)	23. Webster City	24. Winthrop
Great Blue Heron				1																				
Snow Goose																								
Blue Goose																								
Mallard Duck	640	1502	120	1502	2																			
Black Duck	14	180	11	4																				
Pintail			1	2																	32	1		
Green-winged Teal																								
Ring-necked Duck	1																							
Canvasback																								
Lesser Scaup	3			2																				
Common Goldeneye				17																				
Common Merganser	2			637																				
Sharp-shinned Hawk				747			52																	
Cooper's Hawk	1			2																				
Red-tailed Hawk	2			5			1																	
Harlan's Hawk	4	5	27	78	4		1		2	19	5	7	1	2	1	4	4	1	3				4	1
Red-shouldered Hawk																								
Rough-legged Hawk	2	3	3	22		4		1		3	1	2	1						2					
Bald Eagle	2	1	8	29	1		1												7					
Marsh Hawk				114			2																	
Prairie Falcon				10	1																			
Sparrow Hawk																								
Ruffed Grouse				15	3																			
Bobwhite				60	39																			
Ring-necked Pheasant	12		15	21	79	1	33		37	18		12	1	5		6	2	1	936	61	2		5	1
American Coot									9	16		1	14	5										
Killdeer																								
Herring Gull				320																				
Ring-billed Gull				64																				
Mourning Dove				158	31				6	4														
Screech Owl				4																				
Great Horned Owl	2			4	1				1	1														
Barred Owl	4	2	1	17	3	2			2	2			3											
Long-eared Owl				5	4	8			1	1														
Short-eared Owl				3					28	15*														
Saw-whet Owl	1																							
Helted Kingfisher				13	1																			
Yellow-shafted Flicker				21	11																			
Pileated Woodpecker	2	5	3	21					1	3		4	4	6		1			5	5	6	1	5	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1																							
Red-headed Woodpecker	9	5	10	68	25	4			3	13	2	12	5	2	1	3	7		2					
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1			1					16				10											
Hairy Woodpecker																								
Downy Woodpecker	6	2	4	49	16	4	5	5	1	2	5	4			1	1	3	2	4		4	4	2	2
Horned Lark	34	11	29	128	32	4	23	11	17	13	4	12	6	6	2	2	13	23	4	6	17	14	8	6
	1	27	2	140	5	5	26			93		3			2	9		10		21	2			7

# CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN IOWA

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Blue Jay	24	15	63	160	16	11	6	4	20	6	47	7	7	1	1	9	21	10	25	14	4	2	7	
Black-billed Magpie	152	30	112	651	78	20	38	6	53	9	31	40	14	32	3	9	131	11	24	140	8	20	15	
Common Crow	137	83	92	346	212	37	57	14	47	42	114	75	13	20	3	4	77	65	50	61	39	30	16	
Black-capped Chickadee	17	24	19	150	38	20	6	2	13	2	14	4	10	5	3	5	3	3	8	3	3	4	4	
Tufted Titmouse	60	17	13	120	67	16	13	6	15	4	49	24	9	8	3	6	5	33	2	7	15	14	8	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	8	2	11	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Brown Creeper	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Winter Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Carolina Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mockingbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Brown Thrasher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Robin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Eastern Bluebird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Townsend's Solitaire	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Bohemian Waxwing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Cedar Waxwing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Northern Shrike	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Shrike sp.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Starling	435	635	3535	150	529	125	70	200	112	5	60	38	9	100	36	422	116	178	10	35	60			
House Sparrow	625	877	4912	400	73	78	8	200	255	326	140	323	34	135	127	569	128	180	60	30	100			
Eastern Meadowlark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Western Meadowlark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Meadowlark sp.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Redwinged Blackbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Rusty Blackbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Common Grackle	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Cardinal	36	32	185	360	82	27	4	7	80	33	34	9	5	5	12	28	34	12	6	20	12			
Purple Finch	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Pine Siskin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
American Goldfinch	84	9	139	109	46	13	16	1	8	21	10	3	1	1	5	7	17	21	75	8	6	2		
Red Crossbill	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
White-winged Crossbill	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Savannah Sparrow	132	89	571	928	128	61	54	79	170	156	116	350	33	19	10	12	199	20	75	53	8	28	25	
Slate-colored Junco	262	56	95	1113	368	45	96	4	260	132	193	70	31	55	70	24	811	75	250	133	20	10	225	
Tree Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Field Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Harris Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
White-throated Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Fox Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Swamp Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Song Sparrow	2	10	26	130	26	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Lanland Longspur	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Number of Species	38	38	53	74	43	31	27	22	38	32	27	28	24	20	20	21	32	24	24	18	33	26	25	22
Number of Observers	9	6	6	60	20	17	4	5	5	5	2	1	2	1	1	1	7	6	1	1	9	1	2	3

Total Iowa list, 92 species

\* See data under station in body of article  
 \*\*No estimate made of numbers in flocks seen



7. ESTHERVILLE-SPENCER (Woodlands and game management areas). Dec. 21: 8:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Temp. 16° to 30°; wind 10 m. p. h. from S. Partly cloudy, patches of old snow in protected areas. Observers (5) in 2 parties: Mr. and Mrs. Myrle Jones, Loren Jones, Drs. Everett and Eunice Christensen.

Townsend's Solitaire observed at Swan Lake by four of the group; 54 Bohemian Waxwings were found in one flock at Ryan Lake.

8. FAIRFIELD (Area south of Fairfield Country Club, Disposal plant, Woodthrush Reserve, Walton Club, Whitham's Grove west of Fairfield, Evergreen Cemetery, Water Works and Old Settlers' Parks). Dec. 28; 1:30 p. m. to 4:30 p. m. Temp. 48° to 50°; light southwest wind. No snow, hazy bright day. Observers (5) in 2 parties: Dr. Floyd Von Ohlen, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Taylor, Miss Faye Lawson, David Turner.

No details regarding Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

9. IOWA CITY (Same as previous year). Dec. 21; 7 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. Temp. 16° to 26°; wind 10 to 13 m. p. h. from E. Overcast in a. m., clear in p. m., 1 in. crusted old snow, rivers and ponds frozen. Observers: F. W. Kent, Tom Kent, P. P. Laude, S. D. MacDonald, Tom Morrissey.

10. LAMONI (Farm lands, abandoned farm yards, brushy roadsides within 7 miles north and west of Lamoni). Jan. 1; 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. Temp. 20° to 27°; wind 5 m. p. h. from W. Clearing and calm after snowstorm previous day; 3 in. light snow on ground, creeks, ponds and lakes frozen over. Observers (5) in three parties: J. Donald Gillaspey, Jimmy Gillaspey, John Kubec, Ralph Silver, Cecil Teale.

Short-eared Owls were part of a flock of 20 to 30 which wintered on the Gillaspey and nearby farms.

11. LANSING (15-mile diameter circle centering on south quarter post of Section 8-99-4, including Lansing, New Albin, Mississippi River, Upper Iowa River and French Creek; timber and brush land 50%, open fields 20%, marsh and water lands 30%). Dec. 27; 7 a. m. to 4 p. m. Temp. 24° to 45°; wind 2 to 8 m. p. h. from SW and NW. Snow 1 in. to 2 in. only in shaded areas, fresh-water creeks open, rivers 90% frozen. Observers (2) together: Arthur J. Palas, Fritz R. Palas.

12. LEHIGH (5-mile radius centering at Lehigh, including Dolliver State Park). Dec. 27; 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. Temp. 44° to 50°; wind 4 to 7 m. p. h. from S. Cloudy, ground bare, snow only in sheltered places, river frozen, rapids only open. Dean M. Roosa.

13. MT. VERNON (Same area as in previous years). Dec. 27; 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Temp. 27° to 30°; wind zero. Observers: Seddie Cogswell and J. Harold Ennis.

14. OGDEN (Creek bottoms, fence rows, roadsides and open fields). Dec. 26; 12 m. to 5 p. m. Temp. 36° to 32°; wind 8 m. p. h. from NW. Clear, ground bare, creek mostly frozen over. Jim Keenan.

15. OTTUMWA (35 miles, north and east section of Wapello County). Dec. 28; 11 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Temp. 36° to 48°; wind 8 m. p. h. Cloudy and dry. Mrs. Orville T. Upp.

16. PINE HOLLOW STATE PARK (Including trip from Farley to the Park and return). Dec. 20; 7:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. Temp. 8° to 20°; wind 4 to 6 m. p. h. from SE. Clearing and bright, 5 in. of old snow. George E. Crossley.

17. SHENANDOAH (15-mile diameter circle, centering at Farragut, including river woods, orchard, upland woods, coniferous woodland, open farmland and prairie). Dec. 28; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Temp. 34° to 43°; wind 5 m. p. h. from SE. Clear in a. m. to partly cloudy in p. m., no snow on ground, rivers partly frozen. Observers (7) in 2 parties: Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Bordner, Mrs. Robert I. Bordner, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Braley, Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Vaughn.

Eight Bohemian Waxwings in Rose Hill Cemetery were watched at a distance of 15 to 20 feet for over five minutes by the Bordners and Mrs. Braley.

18. SIOUX CITY (Floyd Park Cemetery, Graceland Cemetery, Logan Park Cemetery, Sunnybrook Nursery, Stone Park, Riverside Park, Brown's Lake area, South Ravine area). Dec. 28; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Temp. 36° to 45°; wind 10 m. p. h. from NW. Partly cloudy, ground bare. Observers (6) in 3 parties: Mr. and Mrs. Darell Hanna, L. J. Nickolson, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. L. Nickolson, Dr. Starry.

The Magpies, an unusually large number for the area, were observed by Robt. L. Nickolson near Stone Park. Loggerhead Shrike seen at close range by the same observer.

19. SIOUX CITY (Woodbury and Monona Counties). Dec. 22; 8 a. m. to 3 p. m. Temp. 24° to 45°; wind light. Clear, ground bare. Wm. Youngworth.



#### PILEATED WOODPECKER

From a drawing by E. W. Steffen. This species was seen at five stations during the 1958 Christmas bird census: Cedar Falls, Decorah, Dubuque, Iowa City and Lansing.

20. UNION SLOUGH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (2077-acre waterfowl refuge 5½ miles west of Titonka; marsh and water 49%, upland grasslands and ash-elm-willow thickets 41%, cultivated croplands 10%). Dec. 22; 8:15 a. m. to 4:15 p. m. Temp. 20° to 36°; wind 5 m. p. h. from S. Sky partly overcast, one inch snow on ground, water frozen except for tile outlet and seeps. Harold H. Burgess.

21. WATERLOO (Wapsipinicon River valley including Sweet Marsh, then southeast including 4 miles into Blackhawk County; farmlands 75%, deciduous woodland 25%). Jan. 1; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Temp. 20° to 35°; wind 0 to 5 m. p. h. from E. Cloudy, snow falling throughout day. Ground covered with 4 in. new-fallen snow, streams and ponds frozen, some open water. Observers (9) together: Myrie M. Burk, Virgil E. Dowell, Martin L. Grant,

Russell Hays, Mina Pratt, Maxine Schwanke, Florence J. Spring, George Swanson, Ben Thoma (Waterloo Audubon Society).

22. WATERLOO (Black Hawk Creek area, Byrnes Park area). Dec. 21; 9 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. Temp. 14° to 18°; wind 20 m. p. h. Cloudy, 4 in. to 5 in. snow on ground. Russell M. Hays.

23. WEBSTER CITY (Briggs Woods, Kendall Young Park, roadsides and woodlands along Boone River south of city). Dec. 29; 8:00 a. m. to 4:45 p. m. Temp. 18° to 23°; wind 5 m. p. h. from NW. Clear, ground bare, river closed. Donald and Heber Johnson.

24. WINTHROP (Roadsides and various places in Buchanan County, including State-owned timbered tract on Wapsipinicon River above Troy Mills, and another upriver from Quasqueton). Dec. 28; 8:45 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Temp. 35° to 45°. Fog early in morning, clearing to bright sun about 11:00, then clear to partly cloudy rest of trip; light SW wind; 2 in. old snow in sheltered places, very little snow in open country; river partially open. Observers (3) together: M. L. Jones, Loren Jones, F. J. Pierce.

#### ADDITIONAL BIRD NOTES WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE CENSUSES

Cedar Falls.—A Purple Finch was seen Dec. 26.

Cedar Rapids.—On Dec. 21, on Cedar Lake, 10 Common Mergansers and three Herring Gulls were observed. Cedar Waxwings were seen during the entire two-week period by others than members of the censusing group. On Dec. 29, an adult Bald Eagle was seen by Lillian Serbousek at close range on the Cedar River immediately south of Cedar Rapids.

Davenport.—Other species seen during the census period: Canada Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Snipe, Barn Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing.

Des Moines.—Short-eared Owl, Carolina Wren, Bohemian Waxwing, Common Grackle, Purple Finch and Swamp Sparrow were seen during the census period.

Estherville-Spencer.—Eleven Gray Partridges were observed two miles north of Ft. Defiance State Park on Dec. 18, and a dozen Mourning Doves were seen at Ryan Lake but could not be found the day of the census. A Screech Owl "hid out" during the census but was seen regularly before and after at the Christensen home.

Fairfield.—The day after the census Dr. Von Ohlen saw three Bluebirds in his feeder.

Lamoni.—Carolina Wren was observed by Dorothy Rauch during the census period. Goldfinches were present in flocks of several hundred.

Lansing.—White-winged Crossbill was seen in area but not on count date.

Lehigh.—Belted Kingfisher was another species seen during census period.

Shenandoah.—Horned Lark, Brown-headed Cowbird and Townsend's Solitaire were seen during the period. The Solitaire was seen Dec. 21 in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Sioux City.—During the period Wm. Youngworth also saw Common Merganser, Prairie Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, Long-eared Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Shrike and Common Redpoll.

Waterloo.—A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen Dec. 31.

Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge.—The Prairie Falcon and Northern Shrike have been identified on the Refuge only once previously.

The below census from Decorah was received after the tabulation had been completed.

DECORAH (Bear Creek, Canoe Creek, Twin Springs, Siewer Springs, city area and country along Upper Iowa River). Dec. 27; 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Temp. 20° to 36°; wind 1 to 10 m. p. h. from SE. Clear, ground 5-10% snow-covered. Observers (24) in 4 parties: Louise Ambule, Bertha Dauben-



diek, Bob Daubendiek, Martha Hovde, O. M. Hovde, Mrs. Bert Henning, Dale, Darrell and Tom Henning, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Rohm, Mrs. Bill Walker, Stephen Belgum, Ruth Branae, Paul Docken, Jerolyn Gilbertson, Mary Lou Keefe, Stephen Kloster, Jim Lange, David Pierce, Steve Pierce, Peep Rebasso, Virginia Rohm, Bill Walters.

Gadwall, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 17; Red-shouldered Hawk, 14; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Ring-necked Pheasant, 32; Killdeer, 1; Common Snipe, 1; Mourning Dove, 23; Belted Kingfisher, 22; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 16; Pileated Woodpecker, 3. Red-bellied Woodpecker, 9. Red-headed Woodpecker, 2. Hairy Woodpecker, 6. Downy Woodpecker, 26; Horned Lark, 10; Blue Jay, 38; Crow, 71; Black-capped Chickadee, 86; Tufted Titmouse, 39; White-breasted Nuthatch, 60; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 126; House Sparrow, 329; Cardinal, 66; Purple Finch, 3; American Goldfinch, 25; Slate-colored Junco, 63; Tree Sparrow, 120; Song Sparrow, 6. Total, 34 species. Other species seen during census period: Bald Eagle, 1; Screech Owl, 1.

Mrs. Harold G. Lincoln, of Delhi, Iowa, sent in a list of birds that she observed around Delhi and in the pine-forested area at Backbone State Park on Christmas Day (no details as to hours or weather conditions): Ring-necked Pheasant, 5; Great Horned Owl, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 11; Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 14; Black-capped Chickadee, 11; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 4; Starling, 40; Meadowlark, 14; Cardinal, 5; American Goldfinch, 6; Slate-colored Junco, 20; Tree Sparrow, 2. Total, 17 species.

Walter Pike, of Coggon, Iowa, sent a list of birds that he observed in his dooryard and at his bird feeder on January 3, 1959: Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Blue Jay, 5; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; Starling, 6; Common Grackle, 1; House Sparrow, 30; Cardinal, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 4; Tree Sparrow, 2. Total, 11 species.

Another census, taken outside of Iowa, in western Mercer County, Illinois, was submitted by Robert J. Trial, of Aledo, Illinois. Nine observers participated in this census on December 21, with a total of 50 species and 4,716 individual birds.

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## SPRING CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT KEOKUK MAY 9 AND 10

Extensive plans are now under way for the spring meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union to be held at Keokuk, Iowa, Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10. Indoor sessions are to be in the Keokuk Club, Third and Blondeau Sts., with registration at 10:00 a. m. An early morning bird trip is scheduled for 5:30 a. m. Saturday, leaving from the Ritz Cafe, at Fourth and Main Sts. It is to be hoped that a goodly number of persons will come Friday evening so they may participate in this additional trip.

At this time (March 18) arrangements for the entire program have not been completed, of course, but it is possible to list some of the speakers and their topics: "A Field List of Birds of the Tri-City Area," by Peter C. Petersen, Jr.; "Wintering Bald Eagles at Davenport" (films), by Edwin Meyer; "Views of Venezuela" (films), by J. P. Moore; "Roosting Flights of Wood Ducks," by Elwood Martin; "Arctic Wildlife," (slides) by S. H. MacDonald; "Whip-poor-will Hatching Time" (films), by Dr. Robert Vane; a talk on bird-banding (slides), by M. L. Jones. Others will be on the program, and it seems certain that the speaker at the Saturday evening banquet will be

Paul Bruce Dowling, ecologist and Field Representative of Nature Conservancy, Washington, D.C.

The region surrounding Keokuk has some of the finest and most varied bird habitat in the state. We are assured that the various field trips which are being planned will produce some very fine bird lists and unusually pleasant experiences for all those who take part. Sunday morning breakfast will be served at the Ritz Cafe at 4:30, with the trips in different directions beginning a little later. The groups will reassemble at Rand Park at 1:00 p. m., where a luncheon will be enjoyed and the usual group bird list will be compiled.

This will be our first meeting at Keokuk and also our first in this south-east corner of the state. The Mississippi River location offers great possibilities and we hope a large proportion of our members will attend and invite their friends to come with them. Mrs. George W. Toyne, 852 Newell Ave., Muscatine, Iowa, is Program Chairman. Alois J. Weber, Middle Road, Keokuk, is Chairman of the Committee for Local Arrangements.

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### GENERAL NOTES

**Fall Mockingbird Record in Worth County.**—On October 16, 1958, I saw a large gray bird drinking at our bird bath. Although I had never seen a Mockingbird, the white wing patch, long tail and other features allowed identification at once. After drinking it flew to a wild grape vine on our windmill tower about 20 feet away. The vine was loaded with ripe fruit and the bird was soon eating and moving about in the vine as freely as the Robins, Blue Jays and other birds. There was much feasting on the grapes and the various birds drank freely during this period. By October 27 the vine was stripped of its fruit and the Robins left, but the Mockingbird appeared nearly every morning. It would search for fallen grapes in the grass beneath the vine. As the weather became colder, I warmed the water for the bird bath and put out raisins and sunflower seeds, but I did not observe the Mockingbird eating the food at any time. I did not see it daily in November. Sometimes five days would elapse before its reappearance. The last time I saw it was on November 29, 1958. Reluctant migrant or straggler, I do not know, but definitely it was an unexpected guest that I enjoyed a great deal. —MRS. JOHN BOTTLEMAN, R. D. No. 2, Northwood, Iowa.

**An Unusual Concentration of Bald Eagles at Keokuk.**—During the winter of 1958-59 there were more Bald Eagles at Keokuk than there had been for a number of years. Usually 20 to 30 of the big birds gather, during the winter months, at the open water below the dam, where they can obtain the fish which constitute their chief food. In 1948, 59 eagles were observed there and this number was considered unusual. In the past winter 65 eagles were seen, and from the park at the foot of Main Street 30 or 40 could be counted. Most of them sat on the edge of the ice, which projected several hundred feet into the river from the Illinois shore, but a few were to be seen slowly flapping over the open water in the manner of gulls.

Most ornithologists, and all newspaper reports, refer to the eagles as pirates and stress the fact that they obtain their food by robbing Ospreys and gulls. T. S. Roberts (*Birds of Minnesota*, Vol. 1, p. 337) says: "A very few observers have testified that they have seen the Bald Eagle catch live fish in the same manner as the Osprey, but, if true, it must be a rare occurrence." In spite of the Bald Eagle's reputation as a robber, I have seen little evidence of this trait during the time they were here. Almost all their food was obtained by flying slowly over the open water at a low altitude and suddenly dropping down to reach into the water with their talons for the fish or offal which is near the surface. I cannot say whether the



fish were alive or dead, but the eagles were pretty successful at obtaining their own food. Sometimes they came up with nothing, but many times I saw them fly up with a fish in their talons, after which they carried it to the solid ice or to a big tree on the shore. Only on two occasions did I see them rob a gull and that was after the gull had carried its fish to the ice.

The many ducks which remained in the open water were not molested by the eagles. The ducks paid no attention to them unless an eagle dropped down low over them. Then they flew or ran over the water until the eagle had flown past. I have never seen an eagle pursue a duck.

I saw very few young, dark birds. Because of poor visibility and distance, it was difficult, when the eagles were at rest, to tell whether or not they were in adult plumage. The flying birds were almost all mature with white heads and tails. I saw only two dark-feathered eagles.—ALOIS J. WEBER, Middle Road, Keokuk, Iowa.

**Townsend's Solitaire in Western Iowa.**—The Townsend's Solitaire, although a bird of the western mountains, is almost synonymous with the red cedar tree in Iowa in winter. Among cedars it finds food and shelter during the long winter. Near bird neighbors are Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings and a few hardy Robins. The Solitaire, however, is not very sociable under winter conditions.

This observer had the pleasure of reporting Townsend's Solitaire for the first time, in western Iowa, in December 1956. As I learned to know this bird as a winter visitor through further observations, I began to feel that all Iowa birders (including this one) had been doing less than diligent winter field work. Too frequently we pass quickly through a stand of red cedars and fail to find much in the way of winter bird life.

On December 26, 1956, I made three trips through the small Grant Township Cemetery, near Ticonic, Monona County, before I flushed the lone Townsend's Solitaire. On December 22, 1958, in the same spot, I saw a bird perched on top of a dead pine stub and knew at once it was a Solitaire. It was fairly tame and I spent some time leisurely following it about. On December 24, in Onawa, Monona County, I ran across a different type of Solitaire. On first contact this bird flushed wildly, so I left to check the trees in the Onawa Cemetery. Finding only a fat Sparrow Hawk, I returned to the first area. As I was getting out of the car the Solitaire flushed wildly again. Following it with binoculars I was able to determine that it flew more than a quarter-mile before alighting in the Onawa Cemetery. In a case of this kind an observer not familiar with the erratic flight of this species would have difficulty in determining what bird he had under observation.

A third type of Solitaire I have encountered is the "stick-tight" type, as a further observation will illustrate.

On December 27, 1958, Mrs. Youngworth and I enjoyed one of those winter treats which come only once or twice in a lifetime in western Iowa—that of being able to watch hundreds of both Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings feeding and playing. The place was near Castana, in Monona County. In feeding the birds would literally cover the top and sides of a cedar tree and gulp the fruit with great gusto. Suddenly, with a roar of wings, they would be off, flying with precision flight up and down and around the valley, and then come zooming back for a landing at nearly the spot from which they took off. It was interesting to note that the robust Bohemian Waxwings always made up the fore part of the flock and the smaller, yellowish Cedar Waxwings always brought up the rear, although when they alighted they mixed positions on the tree. As if by some prearranged signal when they left the tree, they seemed to separate and in an instant they were flying as two different species but in a close-knit flock.



We followed the waxwings for about an hour in delightful 55-degree temperature. I told Mrs. Youngworth that with such abundant food something was missing and I could not understand why a Solitaire had not made this area its winter home. After another swing around the area, Mrs. Youngworth held up her hand and I listened. I heard what her fine sense of hearing had picked up before mine. It was a delicate, bubbling, whisper song, almost inaudible to the human ear. We looked intently at a cedar tree about 10 feet away. There was no movement, but the whisper song continued. We walked around the tree and still we could see no bird. Finally a gray bird flew from the tree to another a few feet away. A Townsend's Solitaire was the author of that faint whisper song. The same procedure was carried out at the next tree. To test ourselves we moved to the second tree and found it took almost as much time to find the singer as before. The song was so faint at 15 feet and the singer so motionless, we had almost missed seeing a Townsend's Solitaire.

After the Solitaire decided we were harmless, it stopped singing at intervals and fed on cedar berries. Sometimes it flew up from its perch as if to catch an insect, but in reality it snapped off a cedar berry. Once when a stray Cedar Waxwing perched in the Solitaire's favorite tree, the latter chased it away.

One can find little on the whisper song of the Solitaire in bird literature, yet it is probably of common occurrence in the mountains of the west during any season.—WILLIAM YOUNGORTH, 3119 E. 2nd St., Sioux City, Iowa.

**Mourning Dove Nest in Cattail.**—On July 9, 1958, a dove was flushed from a clump of cattail in Rush Lake, Palo Alto County, Iowa. Examination of the site revealed a nest containing two well developed young (see photograph). The nest was approximately 40 feet from shore on a dense clump of dead cattail which bordered a boat channel. The nest was about 30 inches above water which was 18 inches deep. In addition to cattail leaves, the nest contained stems and leaves of terrestrial plants.

The variety of sites to which the Mourning Dove adapts its nesting seems endless. Nesting over water has been observed on a number of occasions: Forbush (Birds of Massachusetts, Vol. 1:83) found their nests in willows standing in water, and I have seen such nests in Illinois which were 50 to 60 feet from shore. Pearson (Outdoor Georgia, Sept., 1940) reported their nests on tree limbs which extended over water and Nickell (Wilson Bull., 66:137) found them using old Black-crowned Night Heron nests which had been constructed in low willows. Nests over water on bridges are not uncommon (McClure, Iowa Ag. Exp. Sta. Bull., 310; Bates, Wilson Bull., 64:114). Griggs (Bird-Lore, 13:153) found a nest of this species on the ground in moist sphagnum moss of a marsh island. Nests on the ground in dry fields have been reported by Nice (Auk, 39:457-474), Wallace (Wilson Bull., 39:37), McClure, and others.

The use of old nests of other animals seems nearly as common among doves as among some birds of prey. Nice, McClure, Schutze (Condor, 5:81), and many other workers have reported the use of nests of the Robin, Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird, Bronzed Grackle, English Sparrow, Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Blue Jay, Catbird, Magpie, Migrant Shrike, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Domestic Pigeon, and Caracara. Stoner (Oologist, 32:75-77; Iowa Bird Life, 19:36) and McClure noted their use of old squirrel nests.

Any suitable supporting man-made structure, such as eave troughs, beams, etc., seems to invite use by doves. Undoubtedly, the most amazing nest of this type is a nest which was successfully maintained on the crossing point of two pairs of trolley wires (Grant, Iowa Conservationist, 17:67).—MILTON W. WELLER, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.



## MOURNING DOVE NESTING IN CATTAIL CLUMP

The upper photograph does not represent the pair of doves described in the accompanying article, but shows that Mourning Doves frequent marshes for drinking water and perhaps food.

Two young in the cattail nest are shown in the lower photograph.



**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Polk County.**—In late afternoon on July 27, 1958, I saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher perched on a telephone wire. The wire stretched across a little country road known as Meredith Drive, northwest of the Des Moines city limits.

The sun was still bright enough to spotlight the pale gray body, whitish breast with a deepening into salmon-buff on the belly; and a long, scissor-like tail—dusky black in color with splotches of white.

It remained perched for a few minutes after I stopped the car, and then flew in an easterly direction along Meredith Drive. A quarter of a mile down the road I saw a pair of flycatchers circling the top of a wild-cherry tree. I saw no more of either that evening. The following evening I returned to the same territory. About 6:15 p.m. a single flycatcher appeared and sat on a telephone wire running parallel to a large cornfield. Directly across the road was a very large soybean field. It hunted rather extensively over both fields, always returning to perch on either the telephone wire or the fence wire.

Many members of our local Audubon Society made numerous trips to the vicinity during the next three weeks and always the flycatcher was seen. On one occasion Miss Mary Elizabeth Peck, a local member who visited the territory often, saw two flycatchers. Aside from this report and the observation of two on the first evening they were spotted, always a single bird was seen. Our study of the bird's behavior seemed to sum up the fact it usually made appearances in late afternoon in the same general location. It was not shy and was easy to watch.

August 17 was the last date it was seen. The soybean field was mowed shortly before that. An interesting sidelight was that the bird lost both tail feathers while it was under our observation. No doubt they were molted.—MRS. A. J. BINSFELD, 1712 Forty-eighth St., Des Moines, Iowa.

**Fall Plover Records.**—During the fall of 1958, I obtained records for both the American Golden Plover and the Black-bellied Plover in northwest Iowa. I was very careful in my identification of plovers and always flushed them to see the diagnostic flight pattern—i.e., presence or absence of black axillars, white rump, and white wing-stripe.

Although the American Ornithologists' Union "Check-List of North American Birds" (fifth edition) states that the American Golden Plover migrates through the Mississippi Valley in spring and chiefly over the Atlantic Ocean in fall, I have more fall than spring records for it in Iowa. In the fall of 1958, I obtained my first record on September 20 when I found a flock of 14 on mud-flats at Marble Lake, Dickinson County. I did not find it again until November 6; this time I saw a flock of 20 at Ingham Lake, Emmet County. On November 15, I found an American Golden Plover and a Black-bellied Plover together on a mudflat at MiniWakan State Park, Dickinson County. The smaller size and darker coloration of the former species was quite apparent. I obtained my last record for the American Golden Plover on November 19. Harold H. Burgess and I had two under observation that day at the Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Kossuth County.

On September 23, I found my first Black-bellied Plovers (11) of the 1958 fall season a few miles north of the Iowa line at Pierce Lake, Martin County, Minnesota. However, I did not observe this species in Iowa until October 25 when I saw one on the mudflat at MiniWakan State Park, Dickinson County. I saw a lone bird (probably the same individual) in this locality again on November 14 and 15.

Of course, I saw Killdeers several times during the fall migration but a flock of 34 at Ingham Lake, Emmet County, on November 6 is a rather large number for so late in the season. Two Killdeers seen by M. L. Jones and me at MiniWakan State Park, Dickinson County on November 21 is a



late record.—DENNIS L. CARTER, Bldg. 45, Denver Federal Center, Denver 25, Colorado.

**Records of Bald Eagle Nesting in Iowa Desired.**—Harold S. Peters of the National Audubon Society is in charge of a study being carried out by that group on the Bald Eagle. Any known nesting records of this bird in Iowa would be of especial interest in this study. If anyone has knowledge of the Bald Eagle nesting in Iowa, either at the present time or in former years, please contact me. I shall be very glad to have the information and I will send the proper forms to be filled out. The cooperation of Iowa bird students in this study will be greatly appreciated.—BRUCE F. STILES, Director, Iowa State Conservation Commission, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Late Fall Records in 1958.**—Although the Bent's Life Histories, a few articles in Iowa Bird Life, and certain other publications, such as "Birds of Polk County" by Philip A. DuMont, give the earliest and latest dates on which various species of birds have been seen in certain Iowa localities, there is no complete list of such record dates for the entire state. Therefore the observer must often base statements concerning early or late occurrences on his own records.

During the fall of 1958 in Iowa, I obtained 15 records that were my latest ever for the species concerned, based on ten years of observation. The mild weather that prevailed until late in November may partially account for the unusual number of late records. Probably few, if any, of these are record late dates for the state; and, in fact, some of the waterfowl listed are regularly found in winter in some Iowa localities. However, these records may be worth publishing for comparison with the records of other observers.

I obtained the Union Slough records with Harold H. Burgess, the Little Wall Lake records with Heber P. Johnson, and the Ruddy Duck record with M. L. Jones.

Green-winged Teal: 35 at Union Slough Refuge, Kossuth County, November 19.

Shoveler: eight at Union Slough Refuge, November 19.

Ruddy Duck: one on Spirit Lake, Dickinson County, November 21.

American Golden Plover: two at Union Slough Refuge, November 19.

Black-bellied Plover: one at MiniWakan State Park, Dickinson County, November 15.

Solitary Sandpiper: one in Humboldt County, October 5.

Franklin's Gull: one at West Okoboji Lake, Dickinson County, November 14.

Crested Flycatcher: one at Hottes Lake, Dickinson County, September 20.

Swainson's Thrush: one at Webster City, Hamilton County, October 4.

Black-and-white Warbler: one at Hottes Lake, Dickinson County, September 20.

Nashville Warbler: two at Webster City, Hamilton County, October 4.

Black-throated Green Warbler: one at Hottes Lake, Dickinson County, September 20.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: one at Union Slough Refuge, September 27.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 40 at Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County, October 31.

Savannah Sparrow: 42 at Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County, October 31.  
—DENNIS L. CARTER, Bldg. 45, Denver Federal Center, Denver 25, Colorado.

**Death of an Early Iowa Bird Student.**—Below are excerpts from press releases which record the passing, on January 18, 1959, of Dr. Ernest E. Irons, who formerly lived at Council Bluffs and was one of the founders of the Iowa Ornithological Association in 1894.

Chicago, Ill. (AP), Jan. 19: "Dr. Ernest E. Irons, 81, a former president of the American Medical Association and a native of Iowa, died Sunday in Presbyterian Hospital of a heart attack. He was the victim of a strong-arm robbery by two men near his south side home Nov. 19. He suffered a spinal injury in the struggle and was hospitalized for nearly a month. Later, he was confined to bed at his home.

"Dr. Irons, a general practitioner 58 years, was president of the municipal tuberculosis sanitarium board at the time of his death. Among his honors was a gold-headed cane awarded him in 1946 by the University of California School of Medicine as outstanding U. S. physician of the year. He was president of the A. M. A. from 1949 to 1950. From 1923 to 1936 he was dean of the Rush Medical College in Chicago. During World War I he was a base hospital commander and after World War II he went to Japan for the U. S. to recommend changes in health programs for the post-war occupation administration. He was born in 1877 on a Council Bluffs, Iowa, farm. His wife, whom he married in 1908, died six years ago. Surviving are two sons, Dr. Edwin N. Irons, also a physician, and Spencer E. Irons, an attorney."

As a young man Dr. Irons was active in bird study. At least nine short bird notes by him were published in "Iowa Ornithologist," 1894-97. At the third annual meeting of the I. O. A., at Manchester, Iowa, in September, 1897, he read a paper entitled "Notes on the Inter-breeding of the Red-shafted and the Yellow-shafted Flickers."—HENRY BIRKELAND, Roland, Iowa.

**Send in Names of Prospective Members.**—We have some good issues of Iowa Bird Life planned for the future, and a larger membership will help us to have more pages and more illustrations in the magazine. Invite your bird-student friends to join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. We are always ready to follow up with a sample copy of Iowa Bird Life and a membership application blank.

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